



**Preformed Styrofoam Utility Pipe/Conduit
Weight Credit Support Unit
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Abstract

The device and method for construction of linear utility pipe/conduit in adverse soil conditions where instability, low bearing capacity or high water table challenges are overcome by the use of linear Styrofoam “weight-credit” cradles. It provides a marked improvement over standard methods of utility pipe/conduit installation in unstable foundation materials. The cradles can also be simply used as a cushion to protect the utility installation against point loads that could be inflicted as a result of unfavorable foundation conditions.

The device is manufactured from Styrofoam material suitable for subterranean and subaqueous installations. Cross-sectional dimensions can be adjusted according to the specific application depending on the physical properties of the pipe/conduit and the soil parameters where the system is to be installed. In essence the cradle is manufactured as a pre-formed unit extending usually to the spring-line of the pipe/conduit to facilitate acceptance of the pipe/conduit and to provide a stable platform and support for the full length of the pipe/conduit section. The cradles are generally installed in the trenches first, then the pipe/conduit section is placed into the cradle and joined to the adjacent pipe/conduit section. The width and thickness of the cradle is a function functionally determined as part an engineering design of the pipe/conduit system.